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FROM: Habana

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2440, March 19, noon

PRIORITY

Fidel Castro's reaction to our note on March 15 on his charges, United States complicity in LA COUBREO explosion was one of disgust and irritation, according to Miguel Angel Qeuvedo, owner-publisher of BOHEMIA, as reported to me last night by reliable contact. Alleged reason for this reaction as follows:

Castro is convinced that GUS is determined to eliminate his Revolutionary Government. Persuaded by recent graphic "evidence" that GUS is not attempting to control pirate airplane incursions against Cuba, (BOHEMIA article March 6 entitled "Estos son Los Aviones que Bombardeana Cuba") and that American officers are training counterrevolutionary forces in Central America for an armed invasion of Cuba (Quevedo says Castro has photographs to prove this), Castro was on point of announcing break in diplomatic relations with United States and was counting on a strong United States note to offer the occasion for doing so. Hence his annoyance at receiving mild note, which he privately characterized as hypocrisy and a smokescreen.

Embassy doubts that GOC was actually on verge of severing relations. Above report of Castro's attitude and reaction seems otherwise credible.

SW:RH/10

BRADDOCK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY D. ZISCHKE DATE 11/9/81

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